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Message Text

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PLEASE PASS IMMEDIATE TO S/S FOR THE SECRETARY

HEREWITH FULL TEXT NICK TIMMESCH COLUMN OP-ED PAGE BALTOSUN THURSDAY JANUARY 17 HEADED '"PLUMBERS': SPIES IN HIGH PLACES":

WE HAVE A STORY OF INTRIGUE IN HIGH PLACES GOING HERE OF THE KIND ALWAYS DELICIOUS TO THOSE SAVORING WASHINGTON LIFE. FOR OPENERS, IT INVOLVES HENRY A. KISSINGER, WHO ALREADY IS A BLEND OF MYSTERY AND MAGIC; PENTAGON CHIEFTAINS AND A CO-DIRECTOR (ALREADY INDICTED) OF THE CELEBRATED WHITE HOUSE "PLUMBERS" WHOM DR. KISSINGER HAD LOANED TO JOHN D. EHRLICH-MAN, NOW A PRIME WATERGATE FIGURE.

ADD SPYING INSIDE THE BUREAUCRACY, CHARGES OF BUGGING, BLACK-
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MAIL AND UNAUTHORIZED PHOTOCOPYING OF DOCUMENTS PLUS

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THREATS TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY. THE RESULTANT BREW TEMPTS WASHINGTON'S MOST JADED TASTES.

LINES DIVIDING THE "GOOD GUYS" FROM THE "BAD GUYS" IN THIS TALE FADE INTO GRAYNESS. IT WAS THE"PLUMBER," FORMED TO PLUG NATIONAL SECURITY LEAKS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, WHO

ENGINEERED THE BURGLARY OF DANIEL ELLSBERG'S PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE.

EGIL N. KROUGH, JR., AND DAVID R. YOUNG, JR., WHO DIRECTED THE PLUMBERS, AND MR. EHRLICHMAN, WHO ORGANIZED THEM WERE INDICTED FOR THAT BREAK-IN. SO THEY ARE CONSIDERED "BAD GUYS."

BUT NOW IT IS REVEALED THAT IT WAS THE "PLUMBERS" WHO UNCOVERED A PLOT BY A "RING" OF TOP MILITARY OFFICERS TO SPY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL HEADED BY DR. KISSINGER. TWO MILITARY MEN INVOLVED IN THIS ALLEGED SPYING WERE ATTACHED TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUN-CIL BUT WERE LATER TRANSFERRED.

THIS STORY SUGGESTS THAT TOP PENTAGON OFFICIALS WERE SUS-PICIOUS OF WHAT THE NEW NIXON ADMINISTRATION, PARTICULARLY DR. KISSINGER, WAS UP TO IN REGARD TO DETENTE WITH THE RUSSIANS AND THE CHINESE AND IN LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC ARMS. THUS, WAS IT HEROIC FOR "PLUMBERS" TO UNCOVER THIS SPYING?

WELL, THE PROBLEM WITH PUTTING A QUICK WHITE HAT ON THE "PLUMBERS" IS THAT THERE IS A FOLLOWING CHARGE THAT ONE OF THE MILITARY MEN ATTACHED TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUN-CIL HAD HIS TELEPHONE TAPPED BY THE FBI SOON THEREAFTER, ON REQUEST FROM THE WHITE HOUSE. SO, BOO, BOO, "PLUMBERS."

THEN THERE WAS A REPORT THAT (THEN DEFENSE SECRETARY) MELVIN R. LAIRD'S OFFICE WAS BUGGED ON KISSINGER'S ORDERS, ONLY THAT RUMOR-STORY WAS MODIFIED TO ONE HOLDING THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY ONE OF MR. LAIRD'S AIDES WAS BUGGED. TSK, TSK.
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MORE? ANOTHER REPORT WAS THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WAS SO ANGRY OVER EVIDENCE THAT THE PENTAGON WAS SPYING ON POOR DR. KISSINGER THAT HE WANTED TO FIRE ADM. THOMAS H. MOORER, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. (MR. NIXON HAS SINCE REAPPOINTED ADMIRAL MOORE.) THE WHITE HOUSE DIS-MISSED THIS STORY, AND ANOTHER THAT DR. KISSINGER'S DEPUTY ALEXANDER M. HAIG, JR., WAS SERVING AS A DOUBLE AGENT WORK-

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ING FOR KISSINGER BUT REPORTING TO THE PENTAGON. THE LATTER STORY DOES INDEED SEEM FARFETCHED.

HOW DID ALL THIS COME TO PASS? WELL, WE ARE IN THE WATER-GATE ERA, AND EVERYBODY AROUND HERE IS INCLINED TO TAKE HIS CLOTHES OFF. NEXT, THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAD A FOOLISH PROCLIVITY TO PUT EVERYTHING DOWN ON PAPER, BOB HALDEMAN STYLE. ALSO BEING OF THE GREENHORN STRIPE, THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION WAS SUSPECTED BY THE UPPER ECHELONS OF THE ENTIRE GOVERNMENT.

THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF DEFENSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT TYPES WHO WERE UNFAMILIAR WITH THIS ODD FELLOW, MR. NIXON, AND DR. KISSINGER, WHO COULD HAVE BEEN A DR. STRANGELOVE FOR ALL THEY KNEW. BESIDES, IT IS NOT UN-COMMON FOR ONE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT TO SPY ON ANOTHER. FINALLY, THERE IS THE TRUTH THAT DR. KISSINGER DID SHUT OUT THESE DEPARTMENTS FROM MUCH OF THE PLANNING ACTIVITIES HE CONDUCTED IN HIS NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.

IN FAIRNESS TO DR. KISSINGER AND HIS SECRETIVENESS, THERE WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM OF LEAKS FROM HIS NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, AND HIS CONCERN OVER THIS WAS SHARED BY PRESI-DENT NIXON. ONE WOULDN'T GATHER IT FROM THE MEDIA, BUT NIXON-KISSINGER IS A CLOSELY KNIT TEAM, ONLY MR. NIXON CATCHES THE HELL AND DR. KISSINGER THE KUDOS.

ANYWAY, IT WAS NO ACCIDENT THAT, WHEN THE DECISION WAS MADE IN 1971 TO FORM A COVERT "PLUMBERS" SQUAD, IT WAS ONE OF DR. KISSINGER'S CLOSEST AND MOST RELIABLE AIDES, MR. YOUNG, WHOM DR. KISSINGER'S CLOSEST AND MOST RELIABLE AIDES, MR. YOUNG WHOM DR. KISSINGER "LOANED" TO MR. EHRLICHMAN, THEN ORGANIZING THE "PLUMBERS." MR. YOUNG
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REMAINED ON DR. KISSINGER'S PAYROLL UNTIL FORCED TO LEAVE GOVERNMENT LAST SPRING SHORTLY BEFORE BEING INDICTED.

THE INTERNECINE SPYING ACTIVITY I CAN UNDERSTAND AS WELL AS DR. KISSINGER'S VALID WORRY ABOUT LEAKS. WHAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IS WHY DR. KISSINGER, IN THE YEAR OF WATERGATE, HASN'T OWNED UP TO HIS ROLE IN THE WIRETAPPING OF A NUMBER OF HIS OWN STAFF AND OTHER GOVERNMENT FIGURES, HIS DEEP INVOLVEMENT WITH DAVID YOUNG AND HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE PLUMBERS' ACTIVITIES.

HIS DENIAL OF THE LATTER, AS FOUND IN HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, COULD GET DR. KISSINGER INTO SERIOUS TROUBLE,POSSIBLY INTO A CHARGE OF PERJURY. RUSH

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